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SENATE RESOLUTION 115

By Blackburn

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mrs. Claire Caldwell  
Bawcom of Franklin.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who give unselfishly of themselves, their time, and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Claire Caldwell Bawcom was most assuredly one such exemplary Tennessean deserving of praise and commendation for her political activism; and

WHEREAS, she volunteered her time, working in various political activities, from 1976 to 2001; Mrs. Bawcom campaigned in 1976 for the election of Assemblyman John Dorsey in New Jersey, for Tennessee State Representative Cliff Frensley, for State Representative Clint Callicott, for President Ronald Reagan, for President George H. Bush, for State Senator Keith Jordan, for Juvenile Court Clerk Brenda Hyden, for Governor Don Sundquist, for Bob Dole for President, and for State Senator Marsha Blackburn; she also served as the Tennessee Co-Chairman for Jack Kemp's campaign for President; and

WHEREAS, she was actively involved in Republican Women activities since 1990; she was a member of the Tennessee Federation of Republican Women, serving as Area 6B Vice

President from 1991-95, as the Second Vice President from 1995-97, as the First Vice President from 1998-March 1999, and as the TFRW President from April 1999 until her death; and

WHEREAS, she was actively involved in the Republican Women of Williamson County; serving from 1990-91 as the Publicity Chairman, from 1991-92 as the First Vice-President, from 1992-94 as the President and from 1995-97 as the Recording Secretary; and

WHEREAS, since 1978, Claire Bawcom's political activities encompassed a vast array of appearances and appointments; she was appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the State Steering Committee for the White House's Conference on Families and was the Tennessee delegate appointed by Governor Lamar Alexander to the White House Conference on Families in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was successful as a citizen activist in achieving passage of several pieces of education legislation and policy in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, renowned for her oration, Claire Bawcom served as a guest lecturer at the Taft Institute of Government, at Columbia State Community College, Tennessee State University, and Austin Peay State University, where she discussed the topics of lobbying, testifying at legislative committees, and the importance of public education; and

WHEREAS, she gave testimony before the Tennessee General Assembly's legislative committees and the State Board of Education, and spoke at national seminars as well as state and local organizations in Alabama, New Jersey, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Claire appeared on numerous radio and television talk shows in Indiana, New Jersey, and Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a nine-year member of the Williamson County Republican Party Steering Committee, Mrs. Bawcom served as the publisher and editor of "The Watchman," a monthly political newsletter since 1998; and

WHEREAS, her many honors and achievements aside, Mrs. Bawcom was most appreciative of the love and support that she received from her devoted husband of 39 years, and their six children and eight grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Claire Caldwell Bawcom leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mrs. Bawcom for her dedication to the State of Tennessee and to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Mrs. Claire Caldwell Bawcom, reflecting fondly upon her laudable political activism, her impeccable character, and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Caldwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.